# Quarterly Population Report

## Fourth Quarter 2017

### Alberta leads the provinces in growth [1]

The fourth quarter of 2017 marks the first time in two and a half years that Alberta led the provinces in population growth. Natural increase made the largest contribution, while net international migration also continued to be a key driver of gains. Growth was also buoyed by the second straight quarter of net interprovincial inflows, a turnaround from two years of net losses.

As of January 1st, 2018, Alberta had an estimated population of 4,318,772, an addition of 12,733 new residents over the three month period (Figure 1). This amounts to 0.30% growth, significantly higher than the national average (0.21%) and the highest among the provinces. Natural increase (births minus deaths) accounted for 0.17%, while international migration accounted for 0.12%. Although net interprovincial migration was small, the net inflow supported growth.

On a year-over-year basis, Alberta's growth (1.35%)[2] was significantly higher than last year's figure (1.29%), and slightly above the national figure of 1.34% (Table 1). P.E.I. and Ontario had the highest year-over-year growth rates at 1.66%, while Newfoundland was the only province to see negative growth (-0.47%) (Table 2).

### Migration

Alberta received its highest fourth quarter total net migration in four years, gaining 5,599 new residents (Table 4). A reversal of interprovincial outflows supported overall migration growth, which improved by over 3,000 people compared to the previous year. International migration was slightly lower than the same quarter last year, but remained a strong contributor to growth.

1 All data are from Statistics Canada. Estimates from 2007–2018 are based on the 2011 Census adjusted for net census undercount and incompletely enumerated Indian Reserves. All estimates are subject to revision.

2 This growth represents year-over-year variation (January 1, 2017 to January 1, 2018)

Table 1: Population & Growth Rates Canada and Alberta

| Population | | | Year over Year Growth Rate | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1-Jan | Canada | Alberta | 1-Jan | Canada | Alberta |
| 2012 | 34,536,389 | 3,826,708 | 2012 | 1.08% | 1.92% |
| 2013 | 34,936,495 | 3,932,995 | 2013 | 1.16% | 2.78% |
| 2014 | 35,334,385 | 4,051,281 | 2014 | 1.14% | 3.01% |
| 2015 | 35,689,014 | 4,145,224 | 2015 | 1.00% | 2.32% |
| 2016 | 36,017,869 | 4,206,927 | 2016 | 0.92% | 1.49% |
| 2017 | 36,474,968 | 4,261,116 | 2017 | 1.27% | 1.29% |
| 2018 | 36,963,854 | 4,318,772 | 2018 | 1.34% | 1.35% |

Figure 1: Alberta Components of Population Change, 4th Quarter

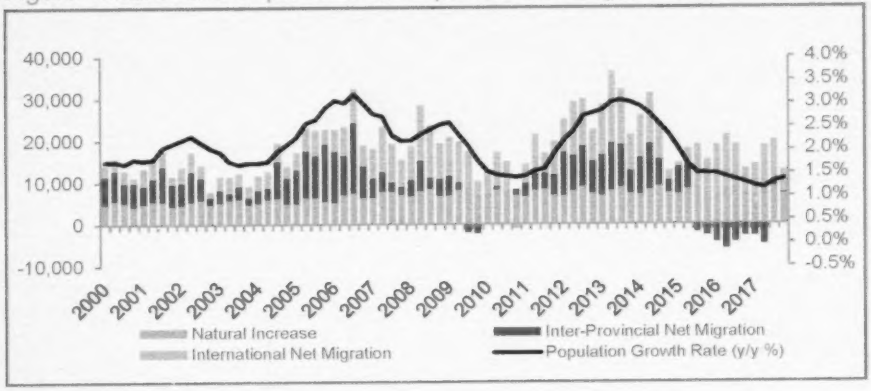


Table 2: Population of Provinces/ Territories as of Jan. 1, 2018 and Growth Rates since Jan. 1, 2017

| | Population | Growth Rate (y/y) |
|---|---|---|
| Canada | 36,963,854 | 1.34% |
| NL | 527,613 | -0.47% |
| PEI | 152,768 | 1.66% |
| NS | 957,470 | 0.68% |
| NB | 760,744 | 0.34% |
| QC | 8,439,925 | 1.06% |
| ON | 14,318,750 | 1.66% |
| MB | 1,346,993 | 1.44% |
| SK | 1,169,752 | 1.16% |
| AB | 4,318,772 | 1.35% |
| BC | 4,849,442 | 1.38% |
| YT | 38,825 | 1.61% |
| NT | 44,597 | 0.33% |
| NU | 38,203 | 2.04% |

### Interprovincial migration

For the second quarter in a row, Alberta experienced a small net inflow of interprovincial migrants. A net of 302 people was gained (Table 3)—the fourth highest of the provinces. Ontario continued to be the most popular destination for interprovincial migrants, gaining a net of 4,376 people, followed by B.C. (854) and Nova Scotia (305).

In economic downturns, Alberta tends to see a net loss of interprovincial migrants to its neighbour, British Columbia. This past recession was no different. As the economy recovers, these outflows are moderating. In the fourth quarter, Alberta saw a net loss of 769 people to B.C. (Map 1), about 60% less than the same quarter last year. After B.C., Alberta lost the most interprovincial migrants to Ontario (-652), which was about 20% less than the same quarter last year. Alberta gained the most migrants from Saskatchewan (875), followed by Manitoba (635).

### Net International Migration

International migration remained an important contributor to growth this quarter, adding 5,327 people to the province's population. This was the lowest fourth quarter increase since 2014, when 2,068 net international migrants arrived. The dip in 2014 was due to large net outflows of non-permanent residents (NPRs); this quarter's drop was due to a softening in the number of immigrants and net outflows of NPRs. Given that the province has been recovering from a recession, lower immigration levels are not surprising, since immigration responses likely lag economic changes.

Since the late 2000's, Alberta's share of immigrants has been in the double digits and rising. In the past two quarters, this share has softened slightly, but remains well above previous historical periods. Alberta welcomed 7,999 immigrants this quarter, the lowest fourth quarter level since 2011. At 12.2%, Alberta's share of all immigrants to Canada (65,539) was the fourth highest of the provinces, behind Ontario (47.9%), Quebec (14.6%) and B.C. (13.7%).

National immigration targets are set by the Federal government on a calendar year basis. About 290,000 immigrants were welcomed to Canada in 2017—slightly below the target of 300,000. Of these, Alberta welcomed about 42,000, or 14.7%, the third highest share behind Ontario (39.1%) and Quebec (18.3%).

Net outflows of NPRs are common in the fourth quarter, due to the expiration of temporary foreign worker permits. As a result, a net of -1,224 NPRs left the province this quarter. While slightly more NPRs left this quarter compared to the same quarter last year, it was still only a third the amount seen in 2015 (-3,631), and about a fifth of the number seen in 2014 (-5,614).

## Natural increase

Alberta's young population continues to help drive its population growth. In the fourth quarter of 2017, Alberta added 7,134 people through natural increase—the result of 13,931 births and 6,797 deaths. Of the provinces, Alberta had the highest natural growth rate, accounting for 0.17% of population growth. The province with the next highest natural growth rate was Manitoba at 0.12%, followed by Saskatchewan (0.10%).

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Map 1: Net Population Movement for Alberta October 1 to December 31, 2017

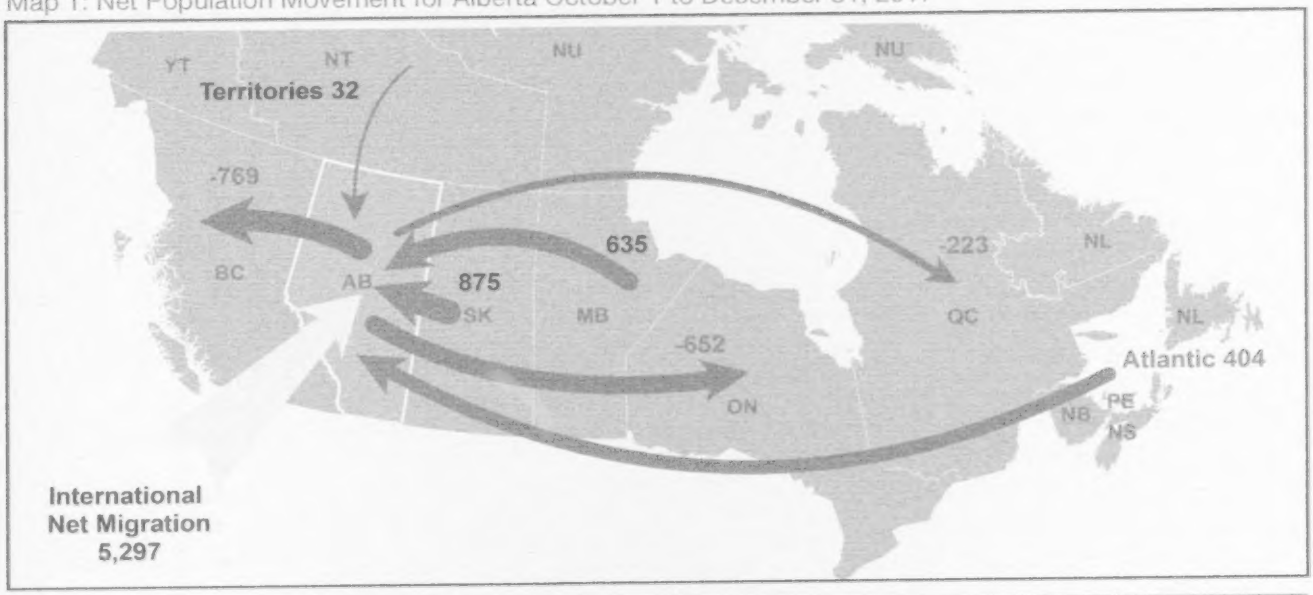


Table 3: Origin and Destination of Interprovincial Migrants October 1 to December 31, 2017

| Origin \ Destination | NL | PE | NS | NB | QC | ON | MB | SK | AB | BC | YT | NT | NU |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NL | 0 | 79 | 165 | 34 | 26 | 593 | 10 | 23 | 476 | 65 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| PE | 5 | 0 | 88 | 115 | 0 | 386 | 5 | 8 | 100 | 124 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NS | 95 | 66 | 0 | 259 | 156 | 1,045 | 5 | 76 | 684 | 101 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| NB | 48 | 100 | 470 | 0 | 192 | 600 | 31 | 18 | 323 | 70 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| QC | 29 | 43 | 127 | 270 | 0 | 3,646 | 41 | 85 | 367 | 591 | 0 | 10 | 17 |
| ON | 398 | 126 | 1,031 | 497 | 2,509 | 0 | 580 | 484 | 2,744 | 2,445 | 73 | 68 | 0 |
| MB | 17 | 0 | 27 | 49 | 44 | 1,316 | 0 | 310 | 977 | 632 | 0 | 19 | 8 |
| SK | 48 | 0 | 80 | 60 | 156 | 943 | 293 | 0 | 2,057 | 683 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| AB | 236 | 85 | 438 | 420 | 590 | 3,396 | 342 | 1,182 | 0 | 4,392 | 75 | 57 | 0 |
| BC | 75 | 76 | 319 | 107 | 531 | 3,043 | 217 | 344 | 3,623 | 0 | 106 | 10 | 0 |
| YT | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 105 | 0 | 0 | 46 | 87 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| NT | 5 | 6 | 24 | 8 | 6 | 104 | 16 | 7 | 113 | 88 | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| NU | 5 | 0 | 26 | 10 | 24 | 154 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 27 | 0 | 7 | 0 |

| | NL | PE | NS | NB | QC | ON | MB | SK | AB | BC | YT | NT | NU |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| IN | 961 | 581 | 2,808 | 1,829 | 4,234 | 15,331 | 1,544 | 2,543 | 11,515 | 9,305 | 284 | 183 | 41 |
| OUT | 1,476 | 831 | 2,503 | 1,860 | 5,226 | 10,955 | 3,399 | 4,323 | 11,213 | 8,451 | 255 | 399 | 268 |
| NET | -515 | -250 | 305 | -31 | -992 | 4,376 | -1,855 | -1,780 | 302 | 854 | 29 | -216 | -227 |

| Q4 2017 | NL | PE | NS | NB | QC | ON | MB | SK | AB | BC | YT | NT | NU |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Outflow to AB | 476 | 100 | 684 | 323 | 367 | 2,744 | 977 | 2,057 | 0 | 3,623 | 46 | 113 | 5 |
| Inflow from AB | 236 | 85 | 438 | 420 | 590 | 3,396 | 342 | 1,182 | 0 | 4,392 | 75 | 57 | 0 |
| Net Flow to AB | 240 | 15 | 246 | -97 | -223 | -652 | 635 | 875 | 0 | -769 | -29 | 56 | 5 |

Table 4: Alberta Components of Growth by Quarter

| Quarters in Census Year | Interprovincial Migration[1] | | | International Migration | | | | | | Total | Vital Events | | Total[4] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | In | Out | Net | Immigrants | Net Non-Permanent Residents[2] | Emigrants | Net Temporary Emigrants | Returning Emigrants | Net | Total Net Migration[3] | Births | Deaths | Sum of Components |
| 2014-2015 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jul-Sep | 22,189 | 15,803 | 6,386 | 10,283 | 14 | 2,973 | 665 | 2,242 | 8,901 | 15,287 | 14,587 | 5,644 | 24,230 |
| Oct-Dec | 14,650 | 11,574 | 3,076 | 9,150 | -5,614 | 1,777 | 529 | 838 | 2,068 | 5,144 | 13,598 | 6,164 | 12,578 |
| Jan-Mar | 22,849 | 16,367 | 6,482 | 8,203 | -5,855 | 1,767 | 545 | 768 | 804 | 7,286 | 13,509 | 6,391 | 14,404 |
| Apr-Jun | 29,786 | 24,136 | 5,650 | 11,970 | -7,127 | 1,979 | 546 | 1,603 | 3,921 | 9,571 | 14,257 | 5,929 | 17,899 |
| Total | 81,540 | 59,946 | 21,594 | 39,606 | -18,582 | 8,496 | 2,285 | 5,451 | 15,694 | 37,288 | 55,951 | 24,128 | 69,111 |
| 2015-2016 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jul-Sep | 19,080 | 21,077 | -1,997 | 14,172 | -2,836 | 2,984 | 665 | 2,242 | 9,929 | 7,932 | 14,825 | 5,835 | 16,922 |
| Oct-Dec | 10,187 | 12,898 | -2,711 | 12,876 | -3,631 | 1,782 | 529 | 838 | 7,772 | 5,061 | 13,786 | 6,369 | 12,478 |
| Jan-Mar | 15,118 | 19,508 | -4,390 | 15,366 | -2,138 | 1,773 | 545 | 768 | 11,678 | 7,288 | 13,700 | 6,604 | 14,384 |
| Apr-Jun | 19,513 | 25,523 | -6,010 | 15,425 | -1,773 | 1,986 | 546 | 1,603 | 12,723 | 6,713 | 14,475 | 6,123 | 15,065 |
| Total | 56,978 | 72,086 | -15,108 | 57,839 | -10,378 | 8,525 | 2,285 | 5,451 | 42,102 | 26,994 | 56,786 | 24,931 | 58,849 |
| 2016-2017 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jul-Sep | 18,097 | 22,518 | -4,421 | 10,074 | 1,178 | 2,989 | 665 | 2,242 | 9,840 | 5,419 | 15,046 | 6,025 | 14,440 |
| Oct-Dec | 9,810 | 12,664 | -2,854 | 8,349 | -1,101 | 1,786 | 530 | 838 | 5,770 | 2,916 | 13,956 | 6,572 | 10,300 |
| Jan-Mar | 15,762 | 18,704 | -2,942 | 13,364 | -4,610 | 1,777 | 545 | 768 | 7,200 | 4,258 | 13,835 | 6,811 | 11,282 |
| Apr-Jun | 20,945 | 25,859 | -4,914 | 12,304 | -971 | 1,990 | 546 | 1,603 | 10,400 | 5,486 | 14,557 | 6,307 | 13,736 |
| Total | 55,661 | 70,792 | -15,131 | 44,091 | -5,504 | 8,542 | 2,286 | 5,451 | 33,210 | 18,079 | 57,394 | 25,715 | 49,758 |
| 2017-2018 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jul-Sep | 17,775 | 17,032 | 743 | 8,440 | 3,335 | 2,989 | 665 | 2,242 | 10,363 | 11,106 | 15,013 | 6,214 | 19,905 |
| Oct-Dec | 11,515 | 11,213 | 302 | 7,999 | -1,224 | 1,786 | 530 | 838 | 5,297 | 5,599 | 13,931 | 6,797 | 12,733 |
| Jan-Mar | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Apr-Jun | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Total | 29,290 | 28,245 | 1,045 | 16,439 | 2,111 | 4,775 | 1,195 | 3,080 | 15,660 | 16,705 | 28,944 | 13,011 | 32,638 |

[1] The sum of quarterly in- and out- interprovincial migrants may not to be equal to annual interprovincial in- and out- migrants from 2011 onwards. It is however possible to add quarterly net interprovincial migration estimates to calculate annual estimates.

[2] Estimates of Non-Permanent Residents (NPRs) represent the number of "...persons who are lawfully in Canada on a temporary basis under the authority of a temporary resident permit, along with members of their family living with them. Non-Permanent Residents include foreign workers, foreign students, the humanitarian population and other temporary residents. The humanitarian population includes refugee claimants and temporary residents who are allowed to remain in Canada on humanitarian grounds and are not categorized as either foreign workers or foreign students." (Statistics Canada)

[3] Includes NPRs

[4] The sum of the components may not equal the quarterly population change due to differences in the methods used to derive intercensal and postcensal population estimates.

All figures subject to revision.